Maſter Smith

HIS

SPEECH

IN

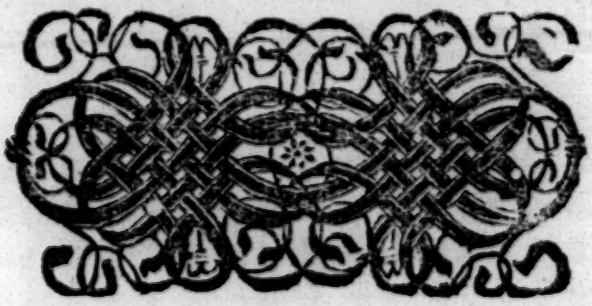
The Houſe of Commons

Aſſembled in

PARLIAMENT,

On VVedneſday the 29.

of Decemb. 1641.



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George Hamerton

Maſter *Smith* his Speech in the Houſe of Commons aſſembled in Parliament on Wedneſday the 29. of Decemb. 1641.

Mr. Speaker:

THe buſineſſe we have now in agitation concerning the Iriſh affaires, and treaty with the Scottiſh Commiſſioners for their timely aſſiſtance of ayd (being to be determined this day) is of great conſequence and weight, even of ſuch importance, that I have not heard of greater when the greateſt troubles were in that Kingdome, in Queene *Elizabeth* her reigne of good memory, theſe troubles with them being comparatively ſimilized is of farre greater danger, and I would to God we might ſo agree with the Lords, that a ſpeedy concurrence might bee with the Scots, with their reliefe in Ireland.

Yet notwithſtanding (Maſter Speaker) the greatneſſe of this rebellion, and moſt outragious cruelties committed daily by the rebels, hazarding neare the loſſe of that Kingdome, without ſpeedy helpe, which takes up our debates and arguments, if we remove not therewithall ſuch impediments here at home as doe hinder our proceedings, not onely in that buſineſſe, but in the ſetling of the peace and quiet of this kingdome, all our endeavours in the ſuppreſſing the Rebels in Ireland, will little availe. Mr. Speaker, under favour of this Honourable Aſſembly, I intend to give you a touch of ſuch letts which doe hinder us, as I conceive, in expediting the great affaires of Church and State, and our proceedings againſt ſuch as are incendiaries and delinquents in the ſame.

Mr. Speaker, we have dayly received petitions from the Citizens of London, ſome of them having beene delivered by good hands, and men of good worth and quality, which wee have willingly taken, and I doubt not but wee ſhall in due time give them ſatisfaction in anſwering of them.

Likewiſe wee have received Petitions from abrupt and diſordered perſons, without any matters that may deſerve our conſideration, but are more fitter to be rejected, as I under favour conceive, then received.

But Mr. Speaker, that which I intend to intimate unto you, as the greateſt ſtoppe in our proceedings, is the riotous and tumultuous aſſembly of vaine and idle perſons, who preſume to begirt our Houſe, not onely in an irregular manner to preferre their petitions, but with open clamor would preſcribe us what Lawes to enact and what not, and what perſons to proſecute and who not: theſe tumultuous perſons Mr. Speaker, take up a great deale of our pretious time in anſwering and appeaſing of them, when as I conceive other buſineſſe more neerly concerning the welfare of his ſacred Majeſty, and his Kingdomes lyes as it were gaſping and ready to periſh for want of our timely aſſiſtance: Mr. Speaker, our patience I perſwade my ſelfe, is one of the greateſt cauſes that animates and encourages theſe illegall outrages, and if ſome rebukes were adminiſtred from the Houſe to them, they would not ſurely bee ſo audacious.

It is true Mr. Speaker I confeſſe it, that their trading is decayed, and hard for them (many of them) to ſubſiſt in their families, by reaſon of the ſlow proceedings againſt delinquents, the reaſon whereof they are uncapable of, neither as I conceive, ſhould they bee made acquainted therewith, otherwiſe then to underſtand that their unſeaſonable and unfitting repaire to the

Houſe, is one principall cauſe thereof, therefore Sir, I conceive, if ſome ſpeedy courſe were taken for the ſuppreſſing theſe tumults by a ſtrict guard about the Houſe, with a command not onely by perſwaſion to avert their reſort hither, but to ſhoote at them if they obſtinately refuſe to be perſwaded, it will be the beſt and ſpediеſt meanes to repell them: likewiſe that in the City of London and Suburbes, by ſome truſty officers appointed by the Houſe for that ſervice, diligent ſearch may bee made for Papiſts and Recuſants, to apprehend them if they finde them armed with any weapons, and bring them before a Committee for examination appointed for that purpoſe; for Mr. Speaker, Papiſts reſort as well as others hither to ſeverall places as I am informed, which as theſe tumultuous perſons pretend is one great cauſe of their meeting here, which if they perceive that they bee proſecuted according to the Laws of this Kingdome in that caſe enacted, they conceive they ſhall have leſſe cauſe to trouble us.

And truly Sir, may I ſpeake my minde really herein, I perſwade my ſelfe that unleſſe the Lawes be put in execution with ſeverity againſt ſome of the greateſt Recuſants to make them exemplary to the reſt, and that with ſpeed, neither this City nor other places of this Kingdome can be ſecure from their diveliſh practi-

ces

ces and plots, and that our too favourable proceedings against them, if so continued, may prove our too late repentance, if any of their perverse and wicked stratagems, should take effect, which God forbid I heartily wish, and that such course may be taken by the blessing of the Almighty on our endeavours, that for ever all the inhabitants of his Majesties Kingdomes that are true Christians and loyall Subjects may lye downe in peace, and rise in safety, to which I shall alwaies say Amen.

FINIS.

D.29.

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